

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 052005Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 771

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5653

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, BE, CGEN

SUBJECT: BELGIAN-GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE BELGIAN DCM IN EAST BERLIN HAS INFORMED US THAT
NEGOTIATION OF A CONSULAR AGREEMENT WITH THE
GDR WILL BEGIN IN BRUSSELS ON MAY 9, WITH KLOBES
HEADING THE EAST GERMAN DELEGATION.

2. DRAFT TEXTS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXCHANGED. A CHIEF
CHARACTERISTIC OF THESE HAS BEEN THE INCLUSION IN THE
GDR VERSION OF A DEFINITION OF "NATIONALITY" AND THE
OMISSION OF SUCH A DEFINITION IN THE BELGIAN DRAFT.

3. THE PURPOSE OF PASSING THIS INFORMATION TO US WAS,
IN PART, TO DETERMINE WHAT THE CURRENT US VIEW OF
THE NATIONALITY QUESTION IS IN LIGHT OF OUR OWN
NEGOTIATIONS. THE BELGIAN DCM SAID THAT BRUSSELS WANT TO
AVOID THE INCLUSION OF ANY
DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY IN A CONSULAR CONVENTION,
AND FINDS THE BRITISH SOLUTION FOR DEALING
WITH THIS QUESTION DISTASTEFUL.

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4. DCM GROVE REPLIED THAT THE USG WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE INCLUSION OF A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY IN A CONSULAR CONVENTION. HE SAID THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, HE WAS SURE, WOULD BE PLEASED TO BRIEF BELGIAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON ON US VIEWS CONCERNING NATIONALITY, SHOULD THE BELGIANS WISH TO APPROACH US ON THIS QUESTION.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE BELGIAN EMBASSY HERE FIRMLY SHARES OUR VIEWS ON THE EXCLUSION OF A PROVISION DEALING WITH NATIONALITY, BUT THAT THERE MAY IN FACT BE SOME WAVERING ON THIS SUBJECT IN BRUSSELS. WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE APPROACHED FOR A DISCUSSION OF US VIEWS. IF THIS IS THE CASE, WE SUGGEST THAT THE FIRMNESS OF OUR POSITION ON NATIONALITY BE MADE CLEAR. SUCH ACTION COULD RE-INFORCE THE BELGIAN VIEW TO BE TOUGH, AND CONFRONT GDR NEGOTIATORS WITH A SECOND INSTANCE OF WESTERN OPPOSITION TO THE POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED WISH OF THE EAST GERMANS TO DEFINE NATIONALITY IN CONSULAR AGREEMENTS.COOPER

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